

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday July 13, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Sarah Carrier and Shirley Canniff. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also present.

Anticipated Speakers: Nancy Leonard, James Benn, Laurie Bogdan, Amanda Rose

Members of the Public: Judson Pierce, Evelyn Ginsparg

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Mr. Lasker read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

Open Forum – Public Comment

N/A

Correspondence Received: Menotomy MB Trail Building & Equity in Park Planning

Menotomy MB Trail Building

Mr. Connelly reported that correspondence was received regarding unauthorized trail building in Menotomy Rocks Park. "Building" includes cutting down saplings, digging trenches and making jumps from soil. Further discussion will be added as a future agenda item. Mr. Connelly is awaiting guidance from Town Counsel regarding language and signage.

Diversity and Equity in Park Planning

Mr. Connelly reported that he received correspondence requesting that the PRC look "outside the box" to make parks and playgrounds more inclusive so individuals of all abilities can participate. The email specifically references a company called BANKSHOT as a source of reference and products. Mr. Connelly will reach out to the sender of the email.

Bench Donation – Nancy Leonard

Ms. Leonard submitted a request to donate a bench in honor of her mother. Ms. Leonard requested that the bench be placed at an Arlington Heights park location with the wording "Dedicated to..." or "In loving memory of..." The Commission discussed the possibility of placing the bench at one of Ms. Leonard's requested locations, the Reservoir. Language will read "Dedicated to..." Design and placement are pending. Mr. Connelly will provide more information to the Commission as available. No vote was necessary.

Arlington Belmont Crew Proposal for Changes to Boat Storage Area – James Benn

Mr. Benn spoke on his submitted request to widen the storage cage from 50 to 61 feet, add a side cage to hold single shells purchased due to COVID, remove a 10 foot tree stump from a previous branch clearing and water and power sources for cleaning boats and equipment. Ms. Mayer advised Mr. Benn to contact the Arlington Conservation Commission regarding the tree stump. PRC cannot approve the request. The Commissions discussed the possibility of ground surface changes and tree planting

requirements resulting from the excavation of the stump. The Commission also discussed concerns about having Crew members assist in the cleanup as community service. Mr. Connelly will contact Inspectional Services to examine debris before a cleanup plan is put into place. Mr. Connelly will schedule a site walk with Mr. Benn, Emily Sullivan and Tim Lecuivre. A “rough agreement” will be drawn up for review by the Commission.

Public Arts Request – Go Out Doors – Laurie Bogdan

The Commission reviewed a public art request submitted by Laurie Bogdan. The request involves temporary placement of painted doors at three new locations to invite neighbors to new areas – McClenen Park near the playground, the dog park at Thorndike Field and at the path entrance at Arlington Reservoir. The project is partially funded by ACA. The installation of 1 ½ - 2 foot posts are required at the site to bolt the doors to. Concrete footings are not required. Ms. Canniff requested that Dig Safe be consulted about the auguring to install the posts. The Commission reviewed and discussed the designs presented by Ms. Bogdan. It was requested that the designs lean toward art rather than messages. Mr. Connelly will be provided photos of any final art project before presenting to the Commission for approval. After review, it was determined that the Commission would support an installation at the Thorndike Field dog park. The Reservoir location is considered a desirable location but will need to be revisited once construction is complete. The Commission discussed concerns about placing doors near playgrounds for safety and vandalism reasons. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the temporary placement of the “guitar door” design along the off-leash recreation area at Thorndike Field between July 19 – November 29, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Walker. Approved 5-0.

Town Wide Playground Working Group

Accessibility Project Update – Request for Volunteers. No action.

Special Event and Film Request

Amanda Rosa presented Files Collective Film’s request to film a Google Documentary about environmentalism. The production will include an interview of an Arlington resident at either Spy Pond Park or Robbins Farm Park. Mr. Connelly stated that all appropriate paperwork and insurance has been submitted. The Commission advised Ms. Rosa to consider curiosity of passers-by, organized sports/games being played in both locations and parking. The production group will walk through both locations to determine the ideal setting and Mr. Connelly will review the park event schedule. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve filming on July 22, 2021 subject to final location approval by Mr. Connelly. Seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

Julia Twarog presented a request on behalf of Friends of Magnolia Park. The group would like to schedule a concert series at the picnic area each Tuesday during the month of August. It will be a free, public event between 5-7:30pm. All special event protocols have been reviewed. Mr. Connelly has reviewed the field schedule and there are no conflicting events. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the event series. Seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 5-0.

Capital Projects Update

Mr. Connelly provided updates on the following capital projects:

Reservoir Phase II Building Project

The building is open and flushing. There are a few items left on the punch-list. The architect is examining leaks. Residents are providing positive feedback.

Reservoir Phase II Site Work Project

Work continues on the perimeter path which has been slowed down by continuous rain. A final coat is being applied from Ridge Park to the culvert. Mr. Connelly will have a conversation with Emily Sullivan regarding the pending grant money. Ms. Mayer stated that some of the grant money may have to be forfeited if we do not do all of the anticipated work requested in the grant application.

ADA Path Summer Street Complex

No updates to provide at this time.

Mountain Biking Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Connelly stated that the Task Force has decided to move forward with Powderhorn. Powderhorn provides design and building services.

FY 22 Projects – Hurd, Spy Playground, Parmenter School

Hurd – Waiting on design quote from Stantec.

Spy Playground and Parmenter – RFPS are at Purchasing

Recreation and Rink Updates

Mr. Vaillente has resigned from his position as Program Supervisor. The Commission thanked him for his service to the Town of Arlington.

Mr. Lever resigned from the PRC. The Commission is seeking a new associate member.

Approval of Minutes – 5/25, 6/8, 6/22/2021

The minutes were tabled.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

- a. Carry In, Carry Out Trash Policy Discussion
- b. Hills Hills Unauthorized Trail Building Discussion
- c. Bikes on Paths

Other

Mr. Walker made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0, at 9:45pm.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.